

STATEMENT BY

HON. J. HUGH FAULKNER

REGARDING

EASTERN ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (EAMES)

NOVEMBER 17, 1977.

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HON. J. HUGH FARVER

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I am pleased today to announce a major and quite unique program of research in the waters off Baffin Island - the Eastern Arctic Marine Environmental Studies, or "EAMES".

The offshore regions of the eastern Arctic, particularly the waters around Baffin Island, hold potential for some of the largest unexplored oil and gas bearing formations remaining in Canada.

Oil companies have permits to explore in the area, and a substantial amount of seismic surveying has been carried out there over the past decade. It is important to note, however, that offshore drilling has not yet been permitted.

EAMES will enable us to determine the environmental constraints on a systematic basis before any offshore exploratory drilling for petroleum might be allowed in the eastern Arctic.

More than a year ago the government announced that no offshore drilling would be permitted until the government was satisfied adequate safeguards had been prepared.

In the meantime, of course, to meet our objective of energy self-reliance within 10 years, Canada needs to know what our frontier resources are. For this reason, offshore seismic exploration, which produces very little disturbance in the water and presents a very minimal danger to

the environment and wildlife, has been permitted to proceed in the eastern Arctic.

The EAMES studies will cover all of Lancaster Sound, Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, will take place over four years and will cost about \$13 million.

EAMES is unique for a number of reasons:

- It is the first time these studies will have been carried out before any authority to drill is granted.
- It will involve northern residents, particularly Inuit, both functionally in the conduct of the studies and on an advisory board to the management committee with representation from 10 communities in the Baffin region.
- It is the first time we will have looked at potential effects of exploration on a broad regional ecological rather than site-specific basis.
- The major portion of the studies will be paid for by the petroleum industry. This is in line with a recent Cabinet decision that industry should bear the cost of accelerated baseline environmental studies when such studies are required because of a proposal by industry.

EAMES has been developed through consultation between several federal departments, with the Inuit people of the Baffin region and with the 26 petroleum companies who hold exploration permits in the region.

Some of the EAMES studies, especially in the areas south of Cape Dyer on Baffin Island and in Lancaster Sound, have already been undertaken by the petroleum industry.

Native people of the eastern Arctic have been and will continue to be involved in both the planning and conduct of the studies. EAMES will not provide significant employment opportunities but the program will call for the functional involvement of Inuit and full use will be made of the extensive knowledge the local hunters have of the area and its resources.

A board of northern community representatives and non-government specialists will advise on the effectiveness and efficiency of EAMES.

The Advisory Board will include representatives from 10 communities in the area, four specialists familiar with the coastal and offshore environment and two representatives from the petroleum industry. There will be no government members. The chairman and vice-chairman will be elected by the board and will be ex officio members of a Management Committee.

This Management Committee will be chaired by an official of my department and will include representatives from the NWT government, the departments of the environment, energy, mines and resources and the petroleum industry.

All communities adjacent to the EAMES areas have been made aware of the proposed studies through community visits and translations of the program outline. It is essential to maintain close liaison with these communities and to involve Inuit at all stages of the program. The people themselves have expressed their wish to participate in survey projects, in particular, that older Inuit hunters should accompany scientific parties. In addition Inuit should be functional members of the project office to facilitate smooth and effective communication between the program manager and the communities.

The EAMES program will be conducted in three parts:

- Lancaster Sound
- Southern Davis Strait
- Northern Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.

As studies are completed and one area is reviewed, exploratory drilling, subject to the appropriate environmental terms and conditions, may be permitted there while other areas are under study or review.

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Terms of Reference - EAMES Management Committee

1. The Committee will consist of government and oil industry representatives and a senior official from DINA will chair the Committee. The Committee will have two representatives from EMR, two from DFE, one from NWIG, and an industry representative from each of the two sub-areas described in the EAMES program. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the EAMES Advisory Board and the Program Manager are ex officio members. The Committee will report to the Director General, Northern Environment, DINA.
2. The Committee is responsible for the overall conduct of the EAMES program and for ensuring that the EIS's are completed according to the EARP guidelines and the established time schedule.
Specifically, the committee will:
 - a) decide which projects should be carried out by (1) government agencies, or (2) oil companies and private consultants,
 - b) approve work statements for the various projects and modify these as required in view of changing circumstances or upon the advice of the Program Manager,
 - c) appoint liaison officers for the projects to ensure that industry representatives are informed about progress of studies done by government staff and vice versa. The liaison officers will report to the Program Manager.
 - d) ensure integration and co-ordination among the various EAMES projects to ensure the most efficient use of scientific and logistic resources, on advice of Program Manager.

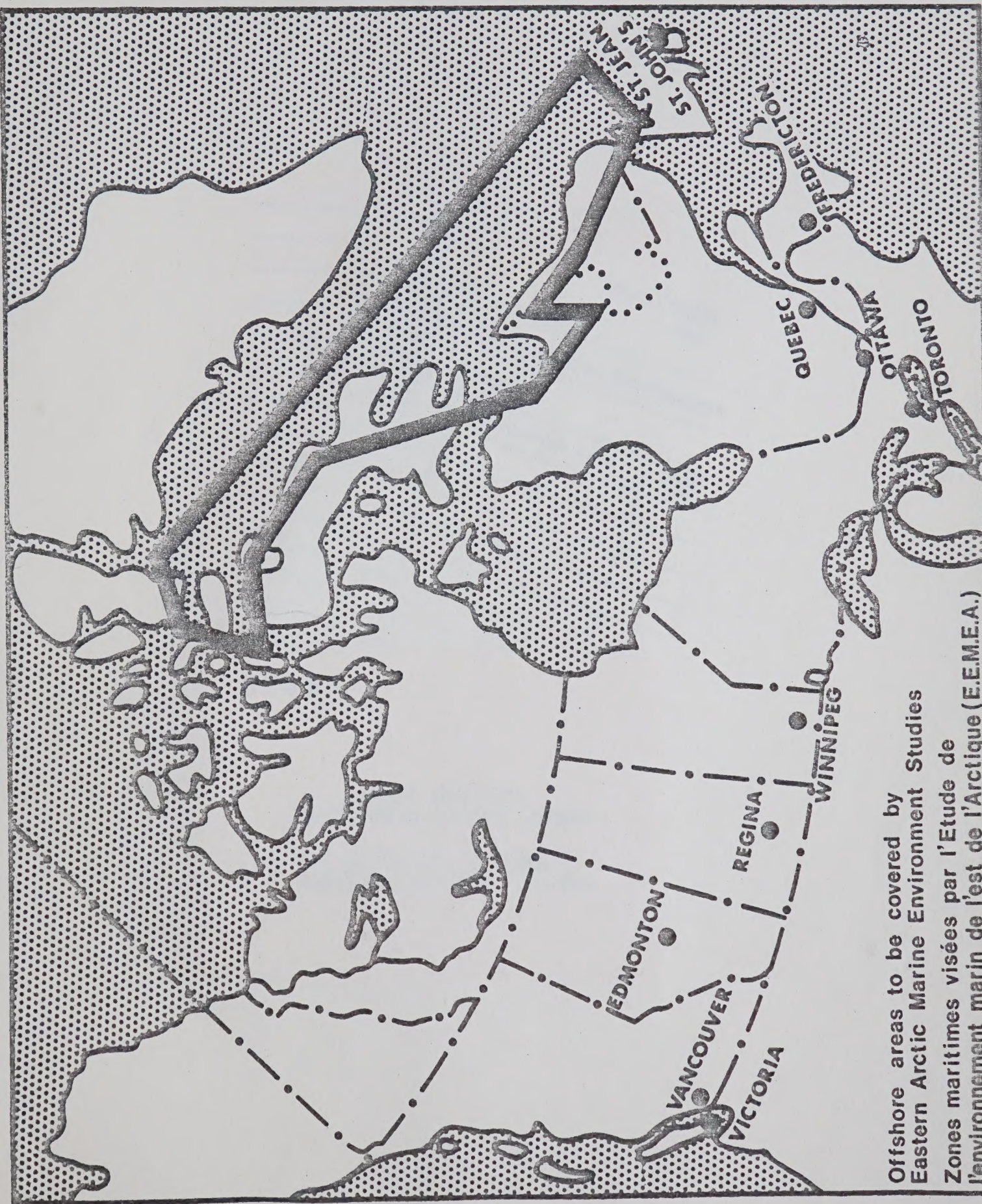
- e) approve standards for data quality and data storage to ensure easy access,
- f) ensure a system exists for publication and distribution of study reports and that adequate information about projects is made available to the Baffin Island and relevant East Coast communities,
- g) ensure that native people are given opportunities to functionally participate in the field studies.

3. The Program Manager is responsible for the day-to-day conduct of the program according to the Committee's direction.
4. The Committee may establish sub-committees to discharge some of its responsibilities.

Terms of Reference for EAMES Advisory Board

1. The EAMES Advisory Board will consist of 10 representatives from the communities in the area, four specialists familiar with the coastal and offshore environment, and two representatives (one for each sub-area as described in the EAMES program) from the oil and gas industry. None of the members will be government representatives. All members are appointed by the Minister of DINA for up to two years. The appointment of community representatives will be made following nominations by the respective community councils. The Committee will elect a Chairman and a Vice Chairman who will be ex officio members of the EAMES Management Committee.
2. The Board will review the methodology, implementation and progress of the scientific/technical program, as well as the level of involvement and participation of local people in the program and make recommendations as to the effectiveness and efficiency of the program in reaching the objective to the Director General, Northern Environment, DINA.
3. The EAMES Management Committee will make available information on the project and the Board may wish to seek additional advice as deemed necessary.
4. The Board will meet no less than twice a year at locations and times decided by the Chairman and make recommendations.
5. The community representatives will be responsible for informing their respective communities about EAMES.

6. The District Manager, Baffin Island district, DIAND will provide administrative services for the Board.
7. The members will be paid an honorarium for each day they participate in Board meetings and related activities. Travel expenses will be covered, according to Treasury Board Regulations.
8. The Advisory Board will be terminated when the EAMES program has been completed.



Offshore areas to be covered by
Eastern Arctic Marine Environment Studies
Zones maritimes visées par l'Étude de
l'environnement marin de l'est de l'Arctique (E.M.E.A.)

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